for non-loanee farmers. Therefore, specific target for the coverage of farmers have not been fixed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Scheme is implemented on area basis. On the basis of the yield data furnished by the State Governments, if the actual average yield per hectare of the insured crop for the defined area during the season falls short of specified threshold yield, all insured fanners growing that crop in the defined areas are deemed to have suffered shortfall in their yield and become elegible for payment of claims. The claims are released to banks and the banks in turn credit the amount in the account of the beneficiary farmers.

Suicide by Farmers in A.P.

1337. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 638 farmers had committed suicide during the last three years in 20 districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of an estimated 490 farmers who committed suicide in the country during 2001-2002, 385 belonged to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, what have been the causes of their suicide; and

(d) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to tackle their problems on immediate basis and big scale too?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) According to information furnished by the State Government, 358 farmers committed suicide during December, 1997 to December, 1998,5 farmers during 1999-2000 and 22 farmers during 2000-01, in the State of Andhra Pradesh. No report has been received from the State Government regarding suicides by farmers during 2001-02. The main reasons for such suicides have been attributed in reports of the State Government to failure of crops and indebtedness.

(d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures in the matter. As per report of the State Government, measures such as improvement of credit facilities, setting up of Agricultural

Development Fund, strengthening of marketing arrangements and encouragement to crop diversification have been initiated to ensure improved productivity and profitability.

Vegetable Production

1338. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of vegetables in 1999,2001 and 2002, State-wise;

(b) the per capita availability of vegetables in India and other developed and developing countries;

(c) the growth rate of vegetables in the country; and

(d) what steps have been taken for increasing the number and capacity of cold-storages in the country, since vegetables are perishable items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The total production of vegetables in the country during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 87536.0 thousand MT and 90830.7 thousand MT, respectively. Information on production of vegetables during 2001 & 2002 is not available. State-wise production of vegetables is indicated at Statement-I *(See* below/

(b) Average per capita availability of vegetables in India during the year 2001 was 63.87 kg. per person per year. The world "average" was 111.95 kg. per person per year. Per capita availability of vegetables in different countries may be seen at statement-II *(See* below).

(c) The average rate of growth in vegetable production in the country has been 20.45% (1998-99) and 3.76% (1999-2000).

(d) National Horticulture Board, Govt, of India, is implementing a scheme Capital investments Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/ Modernisation of cold storage/storages of horticulture produce under which during 2001-02 the Board has provided subsidy of Rs. 135.50 crores for 441 cold storages creating additional storage capacity of 20.32 lakhs MT against the target of 12.00 lakhs MT.